

- Living. Free, open to all. RSVP & Info: Kathy Clinton, 719-725-6060, www.JacksonCreekSeniorLiving.com.
- **Monument Hill Farmers Market Winter Indoor Market**, Sat., **Dec. 21**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Grace Best, 66 Jefferson St., Monument. Shop all your old favorites. Meets every 3rd Sat. through April. Info: 592-9420. See ad on page 5.
 - **Wescott Fire Department Santa Patrol**, Sat., **Dec. 21**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Meet Santa on his fire truck with the Wescott firefighters. See the schedule map at www.wescottfire.org (click on ALL NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS). Info: 488-8680.
 - **Tri-Lakes Music Association Choir and Orchestra Annual Christmas Concert**, Fri.-Sat., **Dec. 20-21**, 7 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 22, 2 p.m., Palmer Ridge High School, 19255 Monument Hill Rd., Monument. Joyful sounds of the season. Free; donations will be accepted to support Tri-Lakes Cares and student scholarships. Info: Rose Dunphey, 719-648-8283; trilakesmusic@gmail.com; www.trilakesmusic.org.
 - **Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church Christmas Eve Services**, Tue., **Dec. 24**, 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m., and 9 p.m., 20256 Hunting Downs Way, Monument. Nursery available for all services except 9 p.m. Info: 488-1365, www.tlumc.org. See ad on page 8.
 - **Woodmen Valley Chapel Christmas Eve Services**, Tue., **Dec. 24**, 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m., Bear Creek Elementary School, 1330 Creekside Dr., Monument. Choose among five identical services, all fun for the whole family. Info: 719-533-6800, www.woodmenvalley.org/monument. See ad on page 13.
 - **County's Annual TreeCycle**, Sat.-Sun., **Dec. 28-29**; Jan. 4-5, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Baptist Road trailhead, Baptist Road & Old Denver Hwy. Recycle your Christmas tree. Trees are ground into mulch that is given away free. Remove all decorations from your tree before dropping it off. Bring your own tools and containers for mulch. Cost: \$5, benefits community youth sports programs. Info: 520-7878, www.TreeCycleCOS.org.
 - **CASA Volunteer Informational Hour**, Fri., **Jan 10**, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 418 South Weber St., Color. Springs. Find out how you can be the voice for a child who is involved in the court system due to abuse, neglect, or domestic violence. Light lunch included. RSVP & Info: 719-447-9898, urikos@casappr.org, www.casappr.org.
 - **St. Peter School Open House**, Sun., **Jan. 26**, 12:30-

Letters to Our Community

Our Community News welcomes letters to the editor on topics of general interest to readers in the Tri-Lakes area. We do not knowingly print letters that are substantially the same as letters that have been submitted to other publications. To ensure that *OCN* contains a variety of viewpoints, each letter writer is limited to a maximum of one (1) letter per issue and six (6) letters within a twelve (12)month period. To submit a letter, please:

- Email your letter, preferably as an attached Microsoft Word document, to editor@ocn.me or mail a copy to **Our Community News, P.O. Box 1742, Monument, CO 80132-1742**.
- Identify your submission as a letter to the editor and confirm that it has not been submitted to any other publication.
- Include a suggested headline or title that summarizes the topic you are addressing.
- Limit your letter to no more than 300 words including your suggested headline and closing.
- Include your full name, home address, phone numbers, and email address, if you have one. Only your name will be published.
- Submit your letter so we receive it no later than midnight, Friday, two weeks prior to the publication date.

If you have not received an acknowledgement two days after your email submission or one week after you mailed your letter, please contact Jennifer Kaylor, Managing Editor, at (719) 488-3455 or editor@ocn.me. At *OCN's* sole discretion, we may ask you for clarification of your statements. Include references, such as website links, in your letter for any facts and figures you cite. *OCN* does not guarantee every letter will appear in print or on-line and does not guarantee a publication date. Depending on the space available, the number of letters printed in an issue may be limited to the first 12 received. Letters containing personal attacks or endorsements for or complaints about individually-named commercial products or services will not be published.

Support Our Community. Volunteer with OCN!

Please join us today! Meet a group of interesting and committed people. Learn new skills—use your enthusiasm and creativity to benefit our community and celebrate unfiltered information. Please call John Heiser, Publisher, at (719) 488-3455, or email johnheiser@ocn.me to see how you can contribute. Contact us today!

2:30 p.m., 124 First St., Monument. Find out about education for Preschool through 8th grade. Info: 481-1855; www.petertherock.org. See ad on page 2.

Our community calendar carries listings on a space-available basis for Tri-Lakes events that are sponsored by local governmental entities and not-for-profit organizations. We include events that are open to the general public and are not religious or self-promotional in nature. If space is available, complimentary calendar listings are included, when requested, for events advertised in the current issue. To have your event listed at no charge in Our Community Calendar, please call (719) 339-7831 or send the information to calendar@ocn.me or Our Community News, P.O. Box 1742, Monument, Colorado 80132.

Support Our Community Advertise in OCN!

Our Community News (OCN), with a circulation of over 21,600, is a unique all-volunteer monthly newspaper mailed FREE to every resident and business in the Tri-Lakes area. OCN is a primary source for Tri-Lakes area news that gives advertising preference to Tri-Lakes and Black Forest businesses. OCN's contract-free low ad rates and monthly publication schedule help stretch your ad budget while supporting an important Tri-Lakes-focused effort to present factual, comprehensive news to all Tri-Lakes area residents and business owners.

For advertising information, contact John Heiser, (719) 488-3455, ads@ocn.me, or visit www.ocn.me.

Content

Articles in *Our Community News* focus on the deliberations of Tri-Lakes area governmental bodies such as the Monument Board of Trustees, Palmer Lake Town Council, and many of the local water, sanitation, fire, and school district boards.

Unlike papers that try to figure out what the “story” is and then get quotes on each side to presumably lead the reader to conclude what the “truth” is, *OCN's* role is to report in detail on public meetings of local governmental entities. We report what was talked about and what was decided. By reading *OCN*, you can find out what you might have learned if you had attended those public meetings. In this context, “truth” is that the articles accurately represent what transpired at the meetings.

The content of ads and inserts in *OCN* is solely the responsibility of the advertisers who place those ads and inserts. The appearance of an ad or insert in *OCN* does not imply endorsement of the ad or insert's content or purpose. While *OCN* does not knowingly run false ads or inserts, we do not research the accuracy of that content. Readers are encouraged to do their own research prior to committing to use the products or services offered. Readers with concerns about the content of an ad or insert should take up those concerns with the advertiser.

Contact John Heiser, Publisher, at johnheiser@ocn.me or (719) 488-3455 with any questions.

Look for our next issue **Saturday, January 4**
Ad space reservations due: **Fri., Dec. 13**
Finished ad artwork due: **Fri., Dec. 20**
Letters to the editor due: **Fri., Dec. 20**
Calendar items due: **Fri., Dec. 27**

Visit our website to read, download, and search all the back issues at **WWW.OCN.ME**



Our Community News
Volunteers reporting on community issues in Monument, Palmer Lake, and the surrounding Tri-Lakes area

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The Rabbi's Corner
Our Life Experiences and their Message to Us—Part V

By Oswald Garagorry

Dear Reader in the prior articles I have described to you the painful situation I experienced over losing a very dear friend and that friendship. Today, I will tell you that what I have learned throughout the pain, sadness and disappointment has affected my life in a permanent way. And yet, in painful tears I'll tell I have treasured and appreciated all the pain and sadness I experienced. Now, looking back I see that without such a painful experience I would not have learned the importance of forgiveness and I would not be in the walk with the Lord that I am in today. Up to this point in my life I didn't know what forgiveness was and more importantly how to forgive someone and the ramifications of forgiveness that would follow.

My path to this understanding began when I was 14 years old as I listened to a radio message from *Psalms 37:5* “Commit your way to the Lord and he will take care of you.” I made that decision and I began to listening to several different radio programs that taught about God. Sometime later on there was a program called *Meditaciones Espirituales* (Spiritual Meditations). The pastor offered a New Testament to anyone who would ask for one. So one day my brother and I went by his church and he gave us one and we began to read it and learn. I listened to those radio programs wanting to learn all I could about God. Years later, by Divine direction, I read the book *The Freedom of Forgiveness* by David Augsburger and learned that as long as we don't forgive, that God won't intervene in that painful situation we may be experiencing. He will let it be. That was exactly what happened with me and my friend. My friend was a great success and everything he put his hands on prospered. Meanwhile I was starving for pennies, barely making it. Sometimes when I talked with God about this, I asked, “Don't you see what so and so is doing? Why do you let this situation keep happening?”

During this time, I knew a very dear American missionary with Wycliff Bible Translators that was aware of the whole situation and sometimes we prayed together about the situation. One day this missionary said to me, “I have something that I want to say; and ask you to consider.” He said: “I would like you to consider going before the Lord, forgive this brother and ask God to bless him and to bless you.” His request followed what I had been reading in *The Freedom of Forgiveness*. I learned in reading this book that if I don't forgive, two things take place: 1. When we don't forgive the person who hurt us, that person has control over us and effects us continuously. 2. By not forgiving, we block God off from intervening in the situation. So, I stood before God, and forgave my friend. I asked God to bless him and bless me.

About a month after doing this I received a letter from a brother who was a strong member in the group of believers that my friend led. In the letter he stated in Portuguese: “Deu o cupim na casa de Cristo.” (Termites took over the House of Christ). House of Christ was the name of the group that he belonged to and that my friend led. He proceeded to describe that my dear friend had beaten his wife, left her, abandoned the group of which he was the leader and left for the company of prostitutes. My friend lost the respect of everyone in his former group as well as the Pastors of the town. This friend who sent me the information is an attorney. He apologized to me and we restored our friendship to the point that he and his wife come at least once a year to spend some time with us here in Colorado. He has been doing this for many years. All the brothers and sisters of the group were very hurt and their gathering dissolved. Many of them still believe but don't want to be involved in any religious group activities. What I have described to you is one of the reasons why my wife and I will be returning to Brazil next year, so we can dedicate our time to these brothers and sisters. So in concluding this series of Our Life Experiences and their Message to Us, I have learned that we must always love and forgive.

Shalom to you.

Dr. Garagorry is the Rabbi of Aliyah Congregation that meets on Saturdays at 10 a.m. at the Mountain Community Mennonite Church, 643 Highway 105, Palmer Lake, CO 80133 www.aliyahcongregation.com • (719) 330-2382
Visitors are welcome!



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